

REMARKS

Claims 1-2, 4-11 and 16-27 are now pending in the application. Claims 28 and 29 are cancelled herein. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 28 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hirano (U.S. Pat. No. 5,731,826) in view of Fukano (Japanese Pat. No. 63-141750). This rejection is respectfully traversed. Notwithstanding and solely in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicant cancels claims 28 and 29. Accordingly, this rejection is moot.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the allowance of claims 1-2, 4-11 and 16-27. All pending claims are allowed. With respect to the various amendments made herein, all "means for" phrases are replaced with "units which". Favorable consideration of these amendments is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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